

## **President turns thumbs down on Keystone XL**

By ART HOVEY / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 2:45 pm

President Obama has denied TransCanada's application for a permit to build the Keystone XL Pipeline, acting on a Wednesday recommendation from the U.S. State Department.

His decision came well ahead of a Feb. 21 deadline for action that he agreed to in December. But the message from his office and from the State Department's Kerri-Ann Jones in a conference call with reporters was that the 60-day timetable for considering the project was too tight.

That deadline was set when Congress extended a payroll tax deduction.

"We have been analyzing the legislation," said Assistant Secretary Jones, "but at the time it was proposed, we did mention and we did confirm that we thought that any imposition of a deadline would compromise the project."

It was unclear whether Wednesday's decision was a setback for the project or a defeat. Getting approval of a pipeline project requires a number of steps in a specific order.

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